

annually, and to increase CIG funding to \$9 billion.

These grants have helped local communities prioritize their own projects; however they have been chronically underfunded in the past. For instance, since 2009, Congress has dedicated nearly \$5.1 billion for eight rounds of TIGER funding, yet the program received \$10.1 billion in applications in FY2015 alone. The process is competitive, and allows the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to reward applicants that exceed eligibility criteria and demonstrate significant non-Federal funding commitments.

By increasing these funding levels and removing the programs from the annual appropriations process, we will take the guesswork and uncertainty out of the programs. This in turn will allow communities around the country to submit funding requests for merit-based awards for projects of national, regional, or metropolitan-area significance. The projects include construction and repair of roads, bridges, and tunnels, the installation of high speed internet, revitalization of drinking water, and the construction and expansion of fixed-guideway public transportation systems, including subways, light rail, commuter rail, and bus rapid transit (BRT).

Mr. Speaker, we have talked about prioritizing a large-scale infrastructure package for years. Congressional Democrats recently unveiled a trillion-dollar plan to make these investments and create tens of thousands of jobs. However, like so many other proposals, it was rejected out of hand by the Majority. Despite controlling the House, the Senate, and the White House, the Majority has not yet offered any plan of their own. All the while, the situation continues to grow worse.

Every four years, the American Society of Civil Engineers' issues a "Report Card" for America's Infrastructure. The report depicts the condition and performance of American infrastructure, assigning letter grades based on the physical condition and needed investments for improvement across 16 major infrastructure categories. The most recent report card was issued last year. Among the national rankings, transit systems were rated a D- and roads were rated a D.

Dams: D.

Drinking water: D.

Inland waterways: D.

Levees: D.

We need to move this process forward. I am therefore proud to offer my own legislation today—not for a massive, all-encompassing infrastructure package—but rather, for a common sense expansion of successful programs based on need and merit. I urge my colleagues to consider it without delay, so that our country can begin making the investments it desperately needs.

CONGRATULATING SUPER-
INTENDENT RANDY KING ON HIS
RETIREMENT FROM THE NA-
TIONAL PARK SERVICE

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, as a member who has the honor of representing the heart of

Mount Rainier National Park, the jewel of the 8th Congressional District and Washington State, I rise today to recognize Superintendent Randy King for his outstanding service to our country, the environment, and the National Park Service and to congratulate him on his retirement on January 2, 2018.

Randy was raised in Michigan and attended Michigan State University, where he developed his love of the outdoors through outdoor excursions with family and friends. After college, he began his accomplished 40-year career with the National Park Service, serving in six national parks including Yellowstone, Acadia, the Intermountain Regional Office, and even an assignment in Australia. In 2003, Randy moved to Mount Rainier National Park to serve as the Deputy Superintendent, including a 15-month detail as Acting Superintendent in 2009 through 2010. Since 2011, Randy has served as the Superintendent of the Mount Rainier National Park.

The challenges of managing the diverse landscape and needs of this park are endless. It includes 235,625 acres of forests, meadows, and mountains, and a National Historic Landmark District. Every year, Mount Rainier is graced with millions of day-hikers, climbers, and outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy the visitor centers, back-country, and summit of the mountain's 14,410 foot summit. With every visit comes inherent dangers from the wild landscape and it was often up to Randy and his team to plan and engage in rescue and recovery efforts. Randy managed all of these challenges with skill and grace.

During his tenure, Randy worked tirelessly to maintain open, honest relationships with surrounding community leaders, businesses, staff, and visitors. He oversaw upgrades to the permitting process, renovations to historical landmarks, improvements to trail and road access, increased stewardship opportunities within the park, and the opening of a memorial to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for their service to this country. I had the honor of working closely with Randy when we passed legislation to name the Eatonville Post Office after Ranger Margaret E. Anderson who gave her life protecting visitors in the park. As Co-Chair of the National Parks Caucus, Randy and I have worked together on many projects over the years in an effort to strengthen and protect our parks.

Randy is a proven leader whose warmth, kindness, and charismatic leadership is a credit to the National Park Service and will be missed at Mount Rainier. Mr. Speaker, I again offer my congratulations to Superintendent Randy King, for his service and dedication to the community and visitors of the Mount Rainier National Park.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on December 13, 2017 and December 14, 2017, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall votes 676 through 684.

Had I been present for rollcall 676, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 658, providing for consideration of H.R. 1638, the

Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act, and providing for consideration of H.R. 4324, the Strengthening Oversight of Iran's Access to Finance Act, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for rollcall 677, on agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 658, Providing for consideration of H.R. 1638, the Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act, and providing for consideration of H.R. 4324, the Strengthening Oversight of Iran's Access to Finance Act, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for rollcall 678, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 657, providing for consideration of H.R. 2396, the Privacy Notification Technical Clarifications Act; and providing for consideration of H.R. 4015, the Corporate Governance Reform and Transparency Act of 2017, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for rollcall 679, on agreeing to the resolution on H. Res. 657, providing for consideration of H.R. 2396, the Privacy Notification Technical Clarifications Act; and providing for consideration of H.R. 4015, the Corporate Governance Reform and Transparency Act of 2017, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for rollcall 680, on passage of H.R. 1638, the Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for rollcall 681, on motion to recommit with instructions for H.R. 2396, the Privacy Notification Technical Clarification Act, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 682, on passage of H.R. 2396, the Privacy Notification Technical Clarification Act, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for rollcall 683, on motion to recommit with instructions for H.R. 4324, the Strengthening Oversight of Iran's Access to Finance Act, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 684, on passage of H.R. 4324, the Strengthening Oversight of Iran's Access to Finance Act, I would have voted "No."

TRIBUTE TO BONNIE KIND

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Bonnie Kind for over 40 years of civil service. Bonnie began her career with the Social Security Administration as a student trainee. This month she will retire from the Social Security Administration, where she served most recently as the Associate Commissioner for Budget and principal advisor to the Social Security Administration's Chief Financial Officer. Bonnie has provided consistent vigilance and stewardship of SSA's approximately \$1 trillion program budget and \$12 billion administrative budget.

As Budget Officer for the Social Security Administration, Bonnie provides executive leadership and direction to SSA in administering a comprehensive program of budget policy, formulation, presentation, and execution. She is responsible for the financial resources needed to provide for one of our nation's most vital public services—social security payments for more than 60 million people.